

## HIGH RENTS IN CITY.

They Have Caused a Large Migration to the Suburbs.

Washington is No Longer an Exception to the General Rule and the Commuter Has Come to Stay.

(Special Washington Letter.)

THIS is the story of the commuters and their advantages. It also tells of their disadvantages.

Every city of considerable size has its commuters, and the national capital has only recently grown to that size. Of course, even small cities have a percentage of commuters, but they only attain respectability in numbers when the city grows abnormally.

Some readers have never heard of commuters, nor even seen any of them. They must be informed that commuters are men and women who work in cities, no matter at what occupations, while they dwell in suburban villages or away out in the country. Henry George, or some philosopher like him, would here stop to reel off an argument about the wickedness and wrong-doing of those who own property to the exclusion of others; but that has nothing to do with this story.

It may be wrong for certain individuals to own thousands of acres of grazing ground for their countless cattle; and it may be wrong for certain men to own a major portion of the earth in which gold is deposited. It may be wrong for William A. Clark to own the greatest deposit of copper on the face of the earth; and it may be wrong for a few individuals to own the great coal fields of this continent. But the right of it and the wrong of it must be argued out by philosophers, scientists, politicians or political economists.

Rents in cities are very high because the limited amount of land used for business purposes is very valuable. The ground is of greater value than the edifices erected upon it. Therefore, the ground used for residences is so far beyond the reach of ordinary wage earners that they can never think of owning city homes; and a very large number of them cannot even earn enough to enable them to afford to pay house rent or room rent. These people become the commuters of the cities.

They get that peculiar name because of the fact that the railroad companies carry them from their suburban homes to their work in the city every morning and back again every night for a comparatively small charge. That is, as compared with the regular rates for passengers. They buy monthly or quarterly commutation tickets, and it is on account of this that they are called commuters.

The strangest thing about commuters of the national capital is that they can rent houses in Baltimore at such a low rate, as compared with rates here, that they can afford to pay their commutation rates and yet save money. Baltimore is 40 miles distant from Washington, but it only takes about three-quarters of an hour to make the trip. Government clerks here in great numbers rent homes in Baltimore, although they do their work in this city. The offices here open at



A COMFORTABLE HALF HOUR.

nine o'clock every morning, and close at four o'clock every afternoon. The commuters read their morning papers while coming to their offices, and read their evening papers while returning to their Baltimore homes.

These commuters are not known in Washington outside of their offices. They are well known in Baltimore, where their families enter upon all social functions, including the church services of all kinds. Their names are mentioned in the Baltimore newspapers, but they are never mentioned here. Only a few years ago a government clerk was shadowed by Baltimore detectives for several weeks, because they suspected him of being a burglar. He chose to have it understood that he was a man of means, that he did not have to work, and his liberal expenditures of money excited suspicion in many minds. The detectives were disgusted, after all of their sleuthing, when they found that he was a government clerk who earned a good salary in the national capital, while he resided in Baltimore and appeared every evening at some function, and always as a gentleman of leisure.

The electric line to Mount Vernon, the home of Washington living and the tomb of Washington dead, has induced several hundred people to buy small acreages along the line and build thereon homes for themselves. The distance to Mount Vernon is only 14 miles, and the car line is well equipped, so that it is almost as easy to live on the Virginia shores of the Potomac as it is to dwell in the remote parts of this city, so far as time is concerned in going back and forth. Moreover, the ancient city of Alexandria is on the route, the cars passing through it, and there our commuters find it possible for them to mingle with the best society of the blue bloods of the first families of Virginia.



NOT WORRIED ABOUT COAL FAMINE.

there, and some have undertaken to build homes there for themselves, on the installment plan. Alexandria, albeit an ancient city, has fallen into business decay ever since the great shot and shell discussion between the sections of our country. But of recent years it has been growing gradually into modernized conditions. Everybody feels and almost knows that in a short space of time, say ten years, it will become a part of the national capital, as it once was. The commuters of to-day will be the fathers of resident families there in the next generation.

Northeast of the city proper is a village of 10,000 inhabitants, called Eckington; and it is subdivided so that a portion of it is called Brookland. This populous suburb is now built up to the city limits, so that only old inhabitants know it is a suburb which has grafted itself onto the boundary line. Eckington was until recently the undivided property left by Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase, to his brilliant and beautiful daughter, Kate. Just a few years before her death she sold it, and it was converted into building lots by enterprising real estate dealers. It is a beautiful place, and it is the product of commuters.

Eckington has a history, although there is nothing left of the old country place which is visible to mortal eyes. Many wonderful political deals were there arranged. The most notable occurrence of all was in January, 1877, when Kate Chase entertained Senator Conkling so charmingly and enchantingly that she kept him away from the capital while the electoral commission bill was being enacted into law. If Conkling had been on duty he would have defeated that bill. But Kate Chase kept him away, the bill was enacted, and Hayes became president.

Col. Andrew Geddes, chief clerk of the department of agriculture, lives at Kensington, a suburb 15 miles to the northwest of the city proper. He says: "We have as pretty a little place as any of those which have been built up around Chicago by its commuters, although it is not yet so large as some of them. I can take an electric car at eight o'clock every morning, open my morning paper and read it all the way to the city, arriving at the department at half-past eight o'clock, which is half an hour before the department work begins. Quite a number of Washington business men, as well as government clerks, live there, and we are all proud of our country homes."

Arlington National cemetery is on the heights across the Potomac river, and the old Lee mansion is visible from every part of the city. West of Arlington is Fort Myer, an army post of the regular army. Between the fort and the aqueduct bridge, a distance of three miles, the entire hill country is divided into lots and called Fort Myer Heights. Here the commuters are building homes by the score.

Then there is a splendid new electric line running through Georgetown, past President Cleveland's former country home, and far out to Rockville, Md., where an excellent seminary is located. This is a fine ride, with the homes of the wealthy all along the route. John R. McLean, of Ohio, owns a baronial estate here, of which any of the noblemen of the old world might be proud.

And, best of all, these commuters of ours live where there is plenty of timber land, and they are buying cord wood for from \$3 to \$5 a cord, and they are not worried about the coal famine. Under the circumstances the commuters are to be envied.

SMITH D. FRY.

## SAVED A LIFE.

Gratitude promotes publicity and it's no wonder people testify when life is saved.

Every reader with a bad back is in danger for bad backs are but kidney ills and neglect may prove fatal.

Neglected backache is quickly followed by too frequent urinary discharges; retention of the urine, painful urination, Diabetes, Bright's disease.

Read how all such troubles can be cured.

CASE NO. 34,520.—Mr. Walter McLaughlin, of 3022 Jacob street, Wheeling, W. Va., a machine hand working at J. A. Holiday & Son's planing mill, says: "I firmly believe had I not used Doan's Kidney Pills when I did I would not be alive now. I was in a terrible condition, and although I took quarts of medicine, and was attended by doctors, I got no better, but worse. Friends spoke of my bad appearance, and thousands knew about it. I could hardly get around and felt and looked like a dead man rather than a living one. Doan's Kidney Pills, procured at the Logan Drug Co.'s store, were a blessing to me; half a box relieved me; three boxes entirely cured me."

A FREE TRIAL of this great kidney medicine which cured Mr. McLaughlin will be mailed on application to any part of the United States. Address Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y. For sale by all druggists, price 50 cents per box.

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**CONSUMPTION**

## SURE OF APPLAUSE.

Sarah Had a Nasal Twang, But She Was Going to Receive One Good Hand.

That the theatrical claque is not confined to playhouses was demonstrated beyond all shadow of doubt to the teacher who was drilling the pupils for the exercises in one of the public schools, relates the New York Times.

The unresponsive bit of femininity over whom the amateur "coach" worked rejoiced in the name of Sarah.

When Sarah began to talk all her vocal organs took joyful holiday and retired in favor of her nose. In vain the teacher begged and implored. Sarah still clung to her monotone. Then the teacher threatened.

"Sarah," she said, "if you don't try to do better you will fail utterly and then how will you feel?"

"Oh, they'll applaud me, Miss Brown," returned Sarah, easily. "My mother is going to give my little brother Andy ten cents, and if he don't begin clapping the minute I sit down he's going to be tarred within an inch of his life."

"Little Colds" neglected—thousands of lives sacrificed every year. Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup cures little colds—cures big colds, too, down to the very verge of consumption.

The footsteps of our forefathers have been followed in so much, and by such crude, sloppy statesmen, that it is not always easy to decide which way they point, any more.—Puck.

"Dr. August Koenig's Hamburg Breast Tea," writes Mr. F. Batsch, of Horicon, Wis., "enabled me to get rid of an obstinate cough; we feel very grateful to the discoverer of this medicine."

"Dar's no good in kickin' case every rose has its thorn," said Uncle Eben. "Ef dar was only jes' thorns wifout no roses, it 'ud be sumpin' sho' 'nough to complain about."—Washington Star.

What's the secret of happy, vigorous health? Simply keeping the bowels, the stomach, the liver and kidneys strong and active. Burdock Blood Bitters does it.

Dress does not make the woman, but it often breaks the husband.—Chicago Daily News.

Putnam Fadeless Dyes produce the brightest and fastest colors.

It doesn't take much gold-leaf to cover the pupil of the eye.—Ram's Horn.

## BACKACHE.



Backache is a forerunner and one of the most common symptoms of kidney trouble and womb displacement.

READ MISS BOLLMAN'S EXPERIENCE.

"Some time ago I was in a very weak condition, my work made me nervous and my backached frightfully all the time, and I had terrible headaches."

"My mother got a bottle of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound for me, and it seemed to strengthen my back and help me at once, and I did not get so tired as before. I continued to take it, and it brought health and strength to me, and I want to thank you for the good it has done me."—Miss KATE BOLLMAN, 142nd St. & Wales Ave., New York City. —\$5000 forfeit if original of above letter proving genuineness cannot be produced.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound cures because it is the greatest known remedy for kidney and womb troubles.

Every woman who is puzzled about her condition should write to Mrs. Pinkham at Lynn, Mass., and tell her all.

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